A NEW HOST-PLANT IN B.C. FOR *RHOPALOSIPHUM NYMPHAEAE* (HOMOPTERA:APHIDIDAE)

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In June, 1986, while sampling insects from Eurasian watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, to evaluate possible biocontrol agents, adult *Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae* (L.) (Homoptera:Aphididae) were recovered from submerged plants in Ellison Lake, Kelowna, B.C. These insects were well established on the plant with probosces inserted into the stem. Individuals were observed daily for two weeks, during which reproduction occurred although the adults remained submerged, cradling bubbles of air between their legs.

R. nymphaeae were also found in samples of *M. spicatum* taken from Long Lake in Nanaimo, B.C. These insects were placed into an aquarium and fed fresh *M. spicatum* at irregular intervals. During a two month period they reproduced and alternated between feeding on the submerged plants and spending time on the surface. *R. nymphaeae* may be draining air from the plant's lacunal spaces, located throughout the stem, in much the same manner as that reported for an aquatic weevil. *Litodactylus leucogaster* (Buckingham *et al.*, 1981).

This is the first report of *R. nymphaeae* from *M. spicatum* in B.C. although it has been reported from two other submerged aquatic plants, *Callitriche stagnalis* and *Elodea canadensis* (Forbes and Chan, 1987). This species has been reported from *M. spicatum* in the southern United States (Balciunas, 1982).

R. nymphaeae has been suggested as a possible biocontrol for aquatic weeds in the past (John and Nair, 1983). This species, however, has a broad host range (Sarup *et al.*, 1973), is not an obligate aquatic, and has been reported as vectoring at least one commercially important mosiac virus from aquatic to terrestrial plants (Wyman *et al.*, 1979). For these reasons, *R. nymphaeae* may not be suitable as a biocontrol agent

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